

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00043 161215Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 HA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 /093 W
-----021426 161409Z /43

R 161130Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 141
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRAZZAVILLE 043

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CF
SUBJECT: NGOUABI ASSASSINATION TRIAL, JANUARY 9-11

1. SUMMARY: PROSECUTION PRESSED CASE AGAINST EWOLO, HEAD OF
NGOUABI'S PRESIDENTIAL GUARD. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN. 9 (DAY 7): ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AUGUSTE OKAMBA,
SENTENCED LAST YEAR BY MILITARY COURT TO HARD LABOR FOR LIFE, WAS
ARRAIGNED BY REVOLUTIONARY COURT ON CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN
ASSASSINATION. OKAMBA IDENTIFIED ONTSOU AS HAVING LED KIKADIDI
INTO ETAT-MAJOR OFFICES. HE CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS KANZA WHO WAS
ASKED TO MOVE KIKADIDI'S CAR, AND THAT HE HIMSELF SAW FOUR
WEAPONS INSIDE VEHICLE. HE SAID HE HADN'T FIRED AT GROUP ATTACKING
PRESIDENT FOR FEAR OF HITTING NGOUABI.

3. HEAD OF NGOUABI'S PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, VERY EMOTIONAL OSCAR
EWOLO, TOOK STAND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED NOT HAVING COME TO PRESIDENT'S
AID AT TIME OF ASSASSINATION. PROSECUTION ARGUED THAT EWOLO,
ONLY PERSON AWARE THAT NGOUABI WOULD BE ALONE AT 2:30 PM MARCH 18,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRAZZA 00043 161215Z

1977, HAD TOLD "COMMANDOS" WHEN THEY SHOULD ATTACK. PROSECUTION
ASKED THAT TWO MEMBERS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE, NGOLLO AND MBIA, BE
SUMMONED IN COMING DAYS AS WITNESSES.

4. JAN. 10 (DAY 8): MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NGOLLO (HEAD OF
GENERAL STAFF) AND ANGA APPEARED AS WITNESSES TO REFUTE EWOLO'S
TESTIMONY AND CRITICIZE HIS PERFORMANCE OF DUTY. NGOLLO

ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN TENSION IN PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, INVOLVING REQUESTS FOR MONEY FROM NGOUABI. A MEMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, MUST BE PREPARED TO DIE WITH HIS PRESIDENT, SAID NGOLLO. ANGA DESCRIBED EWOLO AS ENDEAVORING TO SOW CONFUSION BY TRYING TO IMPLY THAT MINOR AND WELL KNOWN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ANGA AND NGOUABI WERE INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION. ANGA OPENLY DESCRIBED ARGUMENT HE HAD HAD WITH NGOUABI WHICH RESULTED IN ANGA QUITTING PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, AND BEING SUCCEEDED IN HIS POST BY EWOLO. A NUMBER OF OTHER WITNESSES, INCLUDING RUSSIAN WIFE OF CONGOLESE MARCEL OBA, THEN CONTRADICTED EWOLO'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD NOT ATTENDED NGOUABI'S MEETINGS ON DAY OF ASSASSINATION. PROSECUTOR ALLEGED THAT EWOLO ALSO HAD DELIBERATELY DISARMED WATCHMAN BAZONZA. EWOLO'S YOUNGER BROTHER, BERNARD-MICHEL, THEN WAS ARRAIGNED AND NEW CHARGES AGAINST DEFENDANT LAKA, ALREADY CONVICTED LAST MARCH, WERE DISMISSED.

5. JAN. 11 (DAY 9): PCT ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF MARCEL OBA, A WITNESS PREVIOUS DAY. OBA, A FORMER PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND RELATIVE OF MOUTSAKA, NOW IS AMONG ACCUSED, AS IS GABRIEL NGOMA, A WORKER AT NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE. THEREAFTER, COURT CALLED AS WITNESSES (AGAINST EWOLO) MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD WHO HAD BEEN SENTENCED LAST YEAR. PROSECUTION ALSO OBSERVED THAT EWOLO WAS EVEN MORE OF A TRAITOR TO NGOUABI SINCE HE HAD COME FROM SAME TOWN AS DECEASED PRESIDENT, OWANDO.
KATZEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRAZZA00043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-1173
Format: TEL
From: BRAZZAVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzds.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 509c63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3771899
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NGOUABI ASSASSINATION TRIAL, JANUARY 9-11
TAGS: PINT, CF, (NGOUABI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/509c63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014